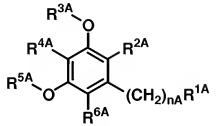
a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by general formula (IA):




**(IA)**

~~[wherein $R^{2A}$ represents a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl;~~ [wherein $R^{2A}$ represents phenyl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D);

$R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$~~, which may be~~ are the same ~~or different, each~~ and represent a hydrogen atom, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a~~ carbamoyl, ~~a~~ sulfamoyl, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups

selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-carbonyl, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl,~~ or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C);

$R^{4A}$ represents a hydrogen atom~~, a hydroxy, or a halogen~~;

nA represents an integer of 0 to 5;

provided that;

(1) when nA is 0,

then $R^{1A}$ is a hydrogen atom, ~~a~~ methyl, ~~a~~ hydroxy, ~~a~~ methoxy, ~~a carboxyl,~~ carboxy, ~~a~~ methoxycarbonyl, ~~a~~ carbamoyl, $-CONHCH_3$, $-CON(CH_3)_2$, $-CONHCH_2Ph$, ~~(wherein Ph represents a phenyl), $-CH(OCH_3)Ph$ (wherein Ph has the same meaning as that defined above), a~~ propionyl, ~~a~~ benzoyl, ~~a~~ dioxolanyl, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ vinyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ prop-1-en-1-yl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B);

and when $R^{1A}$ is a hydrogen atom,

then $R^{6A}$ is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A);

when $R^{1A}$ is ~~a~~ methyl, ~~a~~ hydroxy, ~~a~~ methoxy, ~~a carboxyl,~~ carboxy, ~~a~~ methoxycarbonyl, ~~a~~ carbamoyl, -$CONHCH_3$, -$CON(CH_3)_2$, -$CONHCH_2Ph$, ~~(wherein Ph has the same meaning as that defined above), a~~ propionyl, ~~a~~ benzoyl, ~~a~~ dioxolanyl, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ vinyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ prop-1-en-1-yl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B),

then $R^{6A}$ is a halogen;

(2) when nA is an integer of 1 to 5,

then $R^{1A}$ is ~~a~~ hydroxy, ~~a~~ cyano, ~~a carboxyl,~~ carboxy, ~~a~~ halogen, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkynyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups

selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ arylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), -$CONR^7R^8$ ~~(wherein~~ [wherein $R^7$ and $R^8$~~, which may be the same or different, each~~ independently represent a hydrogen atom, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C) or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or $R^7$ and $R^8$ form a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, which is optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C)],~~)~~, -$NR^9R^{10}$ ~~(wherein~~ [wherein $R^9$ and $R^{10}$~~, which may be the same or different, each~~ independently represent a hydrogen atom, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to

three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted aroyl),~~ aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or -$CONR^{11}R^{12}$ (wherein $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ have the same meanings as the above $R^7$ and $R^8$, respectively)], or -$OR^{13}$ ~~(wherein~~ [wherein $R^{13}$ represents ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C)] ~~),~~

$R^{6A}$ is a hydrogen atom, ~~a~~ halogen, ~~a~~ cyano, ~~a~~ nitro, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one

to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkynyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~an~~ amino, ~~a~~ lower alkylamino, ~~a~~ di-lower alkylamino, ~~a carboxyl,~~ carboxy, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group (but excepting a substituted or unsubstituted pyrazolyl), a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C);

and provided that;

~~(i) when $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are isopropyl,~~

~~then $R^{6A}$ is not a hydrogen atom;~~

~~(ii) when $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are methyl,~~

~~then $R^{6A}$ is not a group selected from a hydrogen atom, a bromo, an ethyl, a 1-hydroxyethyl, a 1-(dimethylamino)ethyl, a vinyl and a carboxy;~~

~~(iii) when $R^{4A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are the same and are tert-butyl or benzyl,~~

~~then $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is not a group selected from a hydroxymethyl and a 2-chloroallyl;~~

~~(iv) when $R^{4A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $R^{3A}$ is a benzyl or an acetyl and $R^{5A}$ is a methyl,~~

~~or when $R^{3A}$, $R^{4A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $R^{5A}$ is a methyl,~~

~~then $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is not a group selected from a 2-(acetylamino)propyl and a 2-(substituted lower alkanoylamino)propyl;~~

~~(v) when $R^{3A}$, $R^{4A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $R^{6A}$ is a carboxy, or when $R^{4A}$, $R^{5A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $R^{3A}$ is a methyl,~~

~~then $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is not an n-pentyl;~~

~~(vi) when $R^{3A}$ and $R^{4A}$ are hydrogen atoms, $R^{5A}$ is a methyl, and $R^{6A}$ is an ethyl,~~

~~then $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is not an n-propyl;~~

~~(vii) when $R^{3A}$ is a methyl, $R^{4A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and $R^{5A}$ is a 4-methoxybenzyl,~~

~~then $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is not a group selected from $-(CH_2)_3CH=CH_2$ and $-(CH_2)_5CH=CH_2$;~~

~~(viii) when $R^{3A}$, $R^{4A}$, $R^{5A}$ and $R^{6A}$ are hydrogen atoms, and when $-(CH_2)_{nA}R^{1A}$ is~~

~~(a) an n-pentyl,~~

~~then $R^{2A}$ is not a 2,4-dihydroxy-6-pentylphenyl,~~

substituent (A) independently represents hydroxy, oxo, cyano, nitro, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, hydroxyimino, lower alkoxyimino, halogen, lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkyl, lower alkanoyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, or lower alkanoylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B);

substituent (B) independently represents hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, amino, halogen, lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (c), cycloalkyl, lower alkanoy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylamino, or di-lower alkylamino;

substituent (C) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, amino, caboxy, carbamoyl, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aralkyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, cycloalkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclic-carbonyl, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, lower

alkanoyl, a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), or aryl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d);

substituent (D) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (e), lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (f), lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aryloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aralkyloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), heterocyclic-alkyloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylsulfonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), arylsulfonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower

alkanoylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aroylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower alkylaminocarbonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylaminocarbonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aryl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituted (d), or heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d);

substituent (a) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, or lower alkoxy,

substituent (c) independently represents hydroxy, or halogen;

substituent (d) independently represents hydroxy, cyano, halogen, lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy;

substituent (e) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyl, aroyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxyimino, lower alkoxyimino, or $-NR^{14}R^{15}$ (wherein $R^{14}$ and $R^{15}$ independently represent a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl or heterocyclic-alkyl); and

substituent (f) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyl, aroyl, lower alkoxycarbonoyl, carboxy, or cyano}

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to claim 12, wherein $R^{2A}$ is ~~a substituted~~ phenyl substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to claim 12, wherein $R^{2A}$ is ~~unsubstituted~~ phenyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$~~, which may be~~ are the same ~~or different, each~~ and are a hydrogen atom, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), ~~or a~~

~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ heterocyclic-carbonyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein ~~$R^{3A}$, $R^{4A}$ and $R^{5A}$~~ $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are hydrogen atoms, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Original) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19-43 (Cancelled).

44. (New) The benzene derivative according to claim 16, wherein $R^{6A}$ is halogen, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from

substituent (A), or lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (New) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, and

$R^{1A}$ is hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), $-CONR^7R^8$, $-NR^9R^{10}$, or $-OR^{13}$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (New) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, and

$R^{1A}$ is a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (New) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein $R^{1A}$ is an alicyclic heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. (New) The benzene derivative according to claim 16, wherein $R^{6A}$ is ethyl, or acetyl, and

$R^{1A}$ is an alicyclic heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.